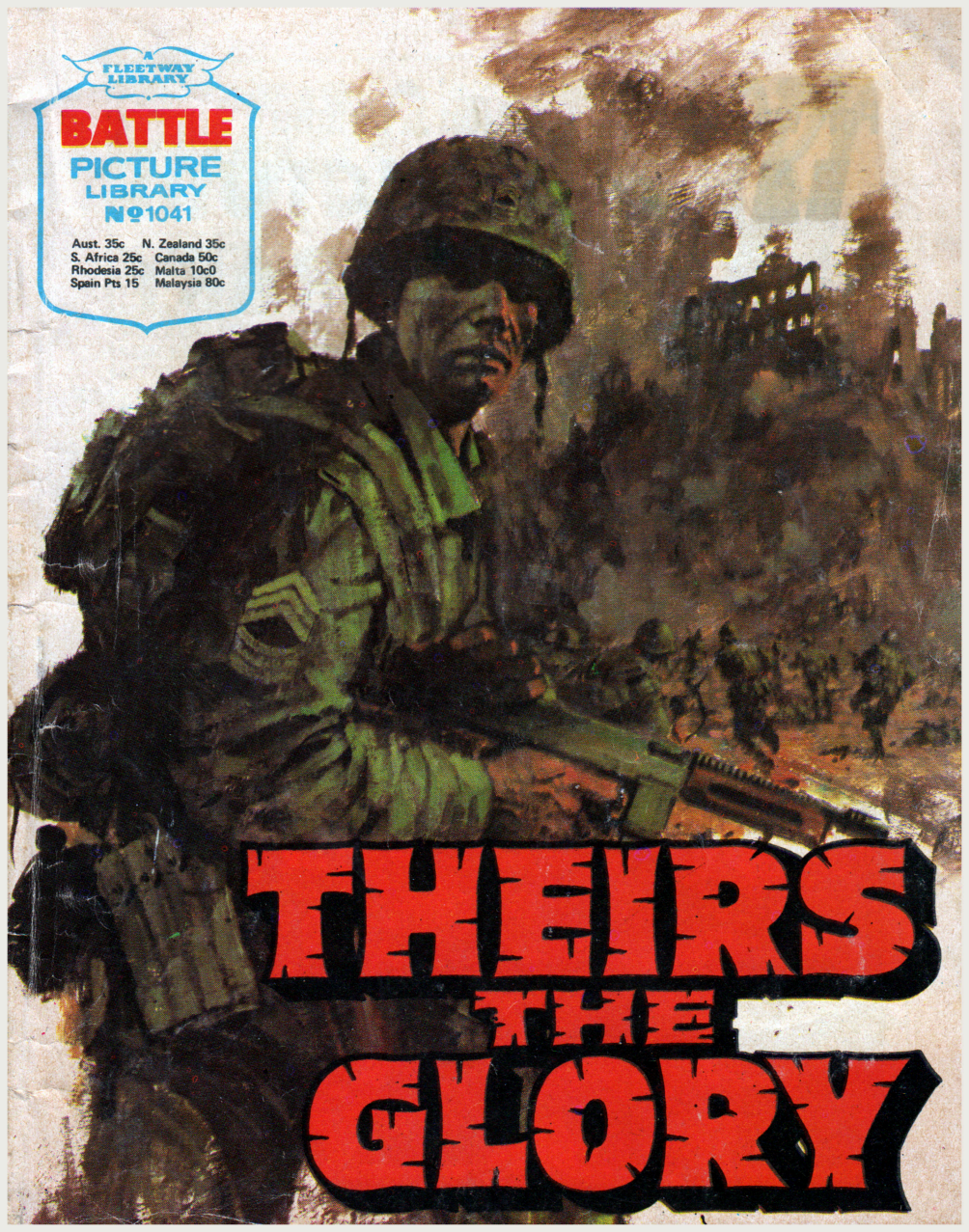
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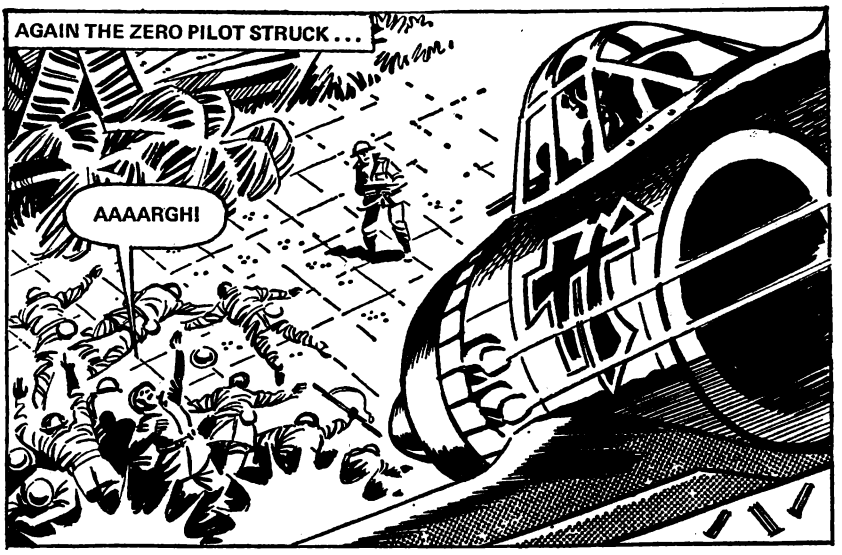
Chapter I. DAY OF HATE

ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO WE WELCOMED A JAP SO-CALLED TRADE DELEGATION HERE TO THE HAWAIIS. TOOK THE DEVILS ON A GRAND SIGHT-SEEIN' TOUR OF THE WHOLE WORKS, INCLUDING THE FLEET!

HIS THOUGHTS AFLAME WITH BITTER ANGER, IRONSIDE WENT TO WAR . . .
THEY'RE HAVING THE FIRST LAUGH! BUT WE'LL JUST SEE WHO HAS THE LAST ONE!

A HUNDRED YARDS AHEAD, LIEUTENANT TEX McGLUSKY SAW HIS PLATOON CUT TO PIECES.
AAGH!
FOR A MOMENT McGLUSKY WAS FROZEN TO THE GROUND WITH HORROR, THEN HE RAN FORWARD . . .
LIEUTENANT! LOOK OUT!


AGAIN THE ZERO PILOT STRUCK . . .
AAAARGH!

IN THAT INSTANT THE SEEDS OF A LONG HATRED WERE SOWN IN THE FIGHTING HEART OF THE BIG IRISH-TEXAN . . .
THIS AIN'T WAR, IT'S MURDER!

UNSEEN IN THE DRIFTING SMOKE SOMEONE ELSE WAS RUNNING TOWARDS THE JEEP-MOUNTED MACHINE GUNS . . .

THE JAP FIGHTER WAS TURNING BACK AS HAWAII-BORN KIM SOONG REACHED THE GUNS . . .

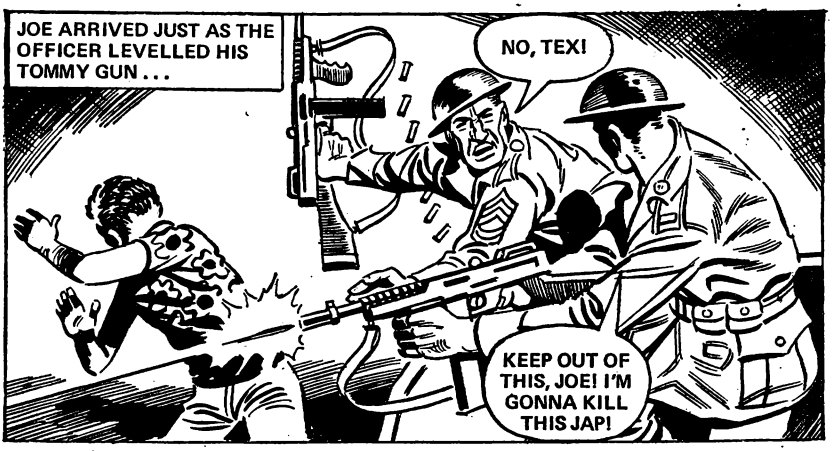
HOW DO I FIRE IT?

GET AWAY FROM THAT!

WITH ONE HAND McGLUSKY SWEPT KIM SOONG AWAY, WITH THE OTHER HE SWUNG HIS SIGHTS TOWARDS THE ONCOMING ZERO . . .

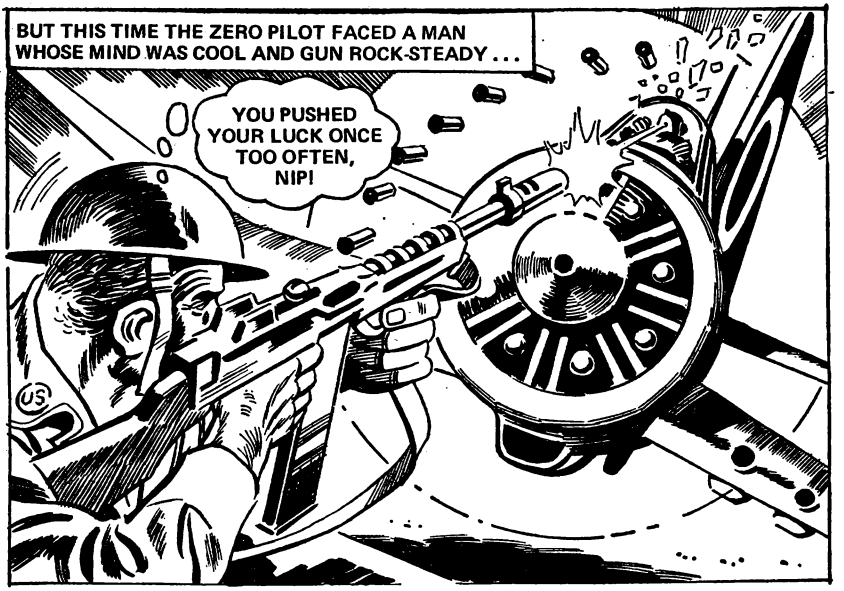
I'LL GET HIM! I'LL GET THAT MURDERIN' COYOTE!

JAPANESE BULLETS CUT THE AIR AROUND HIM AS THE AMERICAN TRIED DESPERATELY TO GET THE GUNS FIRING . . .
IT WON'T FIRE! IT'S JAMMED SOLID!
THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, McGLUSKY SAW KIM SOONG'S FACE . . .
YOU . . . YOU'RE A JAP! SO THAT'S IT! YOU JAMMED IT ON PURPOSE!
NO! NO!

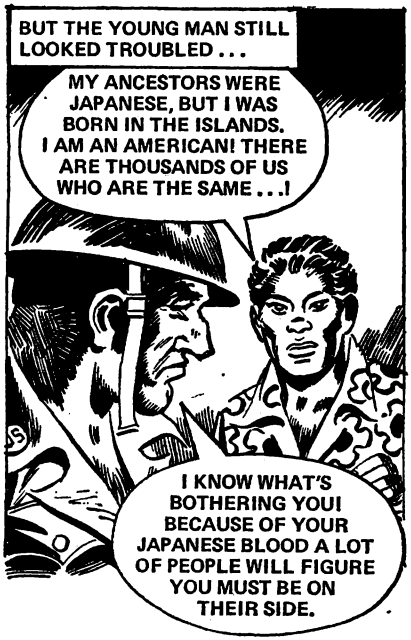

JOE ARRIVED JUST AS THE OFFICER LEVELLED HIS TOMMY GUN . . .
NO, TEX!
KEEP OUT OF THIS, JOE! I'M GONNA KILL THIS JAP!

JOE SAW THAT McGLUSKY WAS BEYOND REASONING . . .
NO TIME TO ARGUE WITH YOU! BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON – SIR!

HIT THE DIRT, SON! MAKE YOURSELF SMALL AS YOU CAN!


BUT THIS TIME THE ZERO PILOT FACED A MAN WHOSE MIND WAS COOL AND GUN ROCK-STEADY . . .
YOU PUSHED YOUR LUCK ONCE TOO OFTEN, NIP!

PLEASE, YOUR FRIEND WAS WRONG! I NOT A JAPANESE.
I REALISE THAT, SON! MY OFFICER PAL'S AN IRISH-TEXAN, AND THAT'S A PRETTY FIERY COMBINATION.


BUT THE YOUNG MAN STILL LOOKED TROUBLED . . .
MY ANCESTORS WERE JAPANESE, BUT I WAS BORN IN THE ISLANDS. I AM AN AMERICAN! THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF US WHO ARE THE SAME . . .!
I KNOW WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU! BECAUSE OF YOUR JAPANESE BLOOD A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL FIGURE YOU MUST BE ON THEIR SIDE.

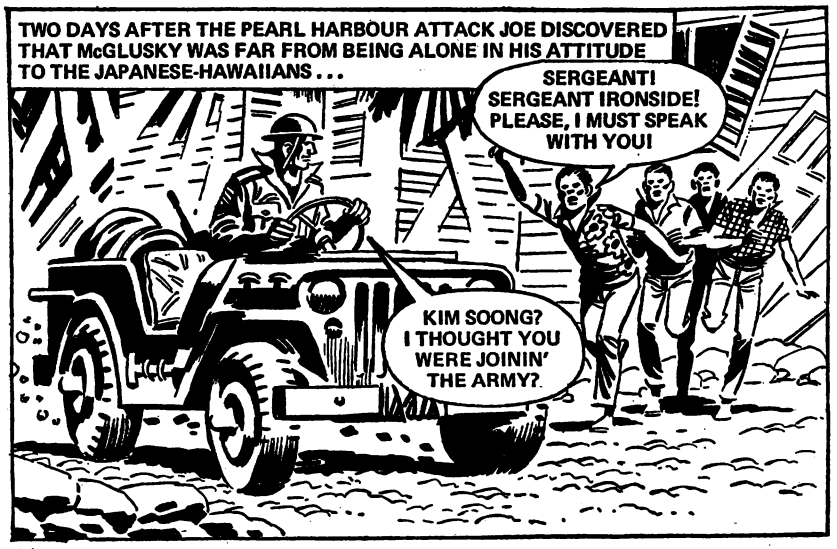
BUT THEY ARE WRONG! WE ARE LOYAL AMERICANS, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT WITH OUR LIVES FOR OUR COUNTRY! WE WILL PROVE THIS TO EVERYONE!
SURE YOU WILL! I'M JOE IRONSIDE! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM KIM SOONG! NOW I WILL LEAVE YOU, TO GO AND ENLIST IN THE ARMY. OTHERS LIKE ME WILL BE DOING THE SAME, THIS I KNOW!
WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE MEN WE CAN GET. GOOD LUCK, KIM!

THE TOP SERGEANT SHOOK HIS HEAD SADLY AS KIM SOONG DASHED AWAY . . .
GOOD LUCK TO YOU! I'VE A NASTY HUNCH GUYS LIKE YOU ARE GONNA NEED IT!
YOU SLUGGED AN OFFICER? ON ACCOUNT OF THAT JAP?

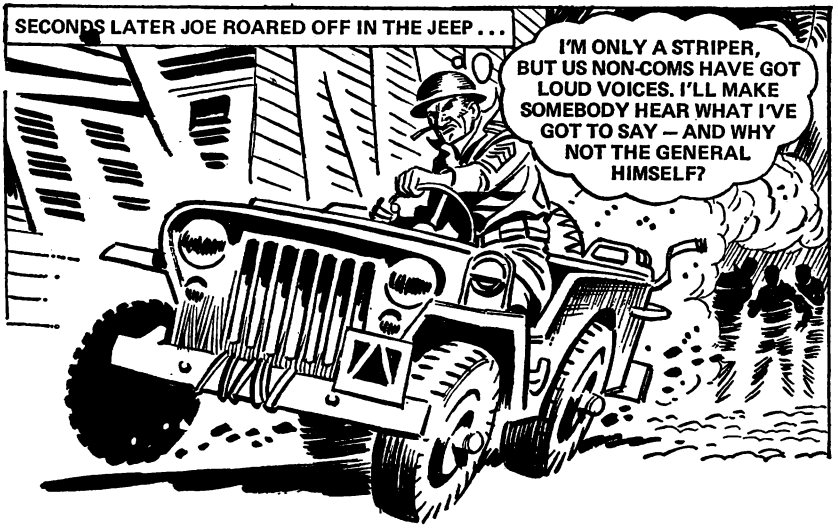
THE VETERAN SERGEANT'S JAW JUTTED . . .
KNOCK IT OFF OR I'LL SLUG YOU AGAIN. HAWAII WAS MADE A U.S. TERRITORY FORTY YEARS AGO. THAT MAKES ANY HAWAIIAN AS YANK AS YOU ARE!
OKAY, OKAY! BUT A LOT OF 'EM HAVE GOT JAP BLOOD IN 'EM!

AND, AFTER TODAY, I DON'T TRUST ANY JAPS!
WHEN IT COMES TO JAPS IN JAP UNIFORMS, I AGREE! THOSE RATS HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR . . .

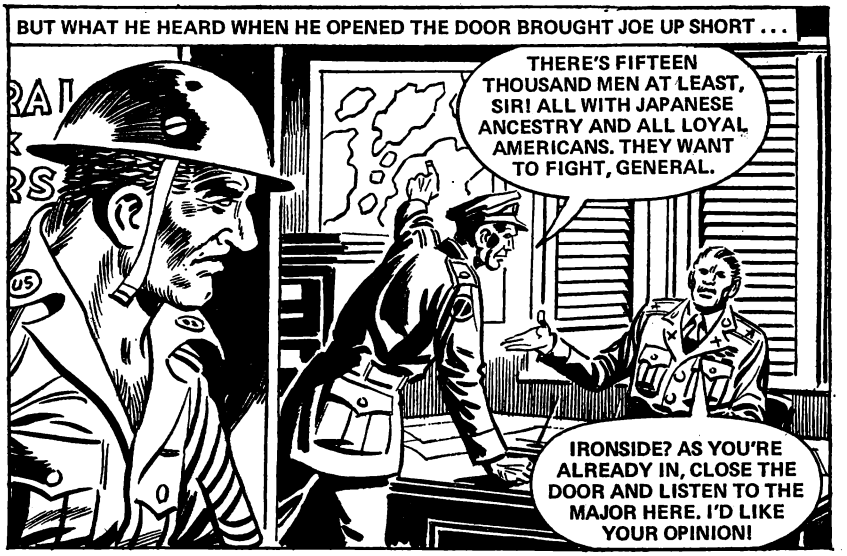

TWO DAYS AFTER THE PEARL HARBOUR ATTACK JOE DISCOVERED THAT McGLUSKY WAS FAR FROM BEING ALONE IN HIS ATTITUDE TO THE JAPANESE-HAWAIIANS . . .
SERGEANT! SERGEANT IRONSIDE! PLEASE, I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!
KIM SOONG? I THOUGHT YOU WERE JOININ' THE ARMY?

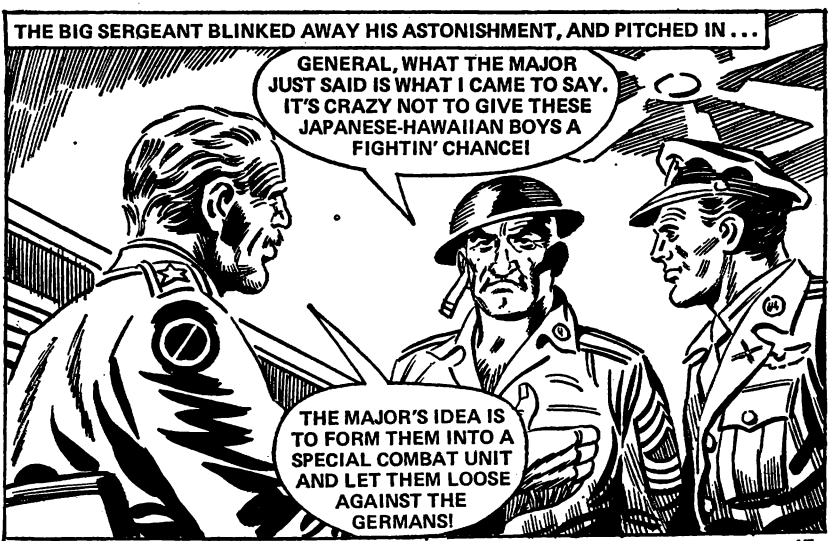
THE YOUNG MAN'S EYES WERE ANGRY . . .
I ASK YOU TO TRY AND HELP US! ALL OF US WITH JAPANESE ANCESTRY, WE ARE BEING TREATED LIKE ENEMIES!
MORE LIKE TRAITORS! THEY ARE GOING TO ROUND US UP. PUT US INTO PRISON CAMPS!

JOE IRONSIDE BEGAN TO SEE RED . . .
ALL WE ASK IS THE CHANCE TO PROVE THAT WE ARE LOYAL! CAN YOU NOT SPEAK TO SOMEBODY?
SOMEBODY SHOULD SPEAK TO SOMEBODY, THAT'S FOR SURE!

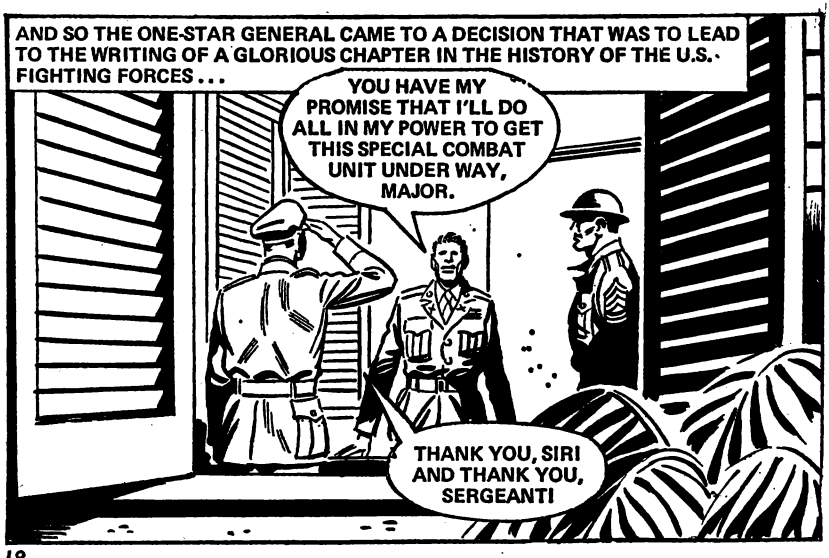

SECONDS LATER JOE ROARED OFF IN THE JEEP . . .
I'M ONLY A STRIPER, BUT US NON-COMS HAVE GOT LOUD VOICES. I'LL MAKE SOMEBODY HEAR WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY — AND WHY NOT THE GENERAL HIMSELF?

SERGEANT IRONSIDE IN THE MOOD HE WAS IN WAS AS HARD TO STOP AS A RUNAWAY TANK . . .
NONON
GENERAL ★ SUMMERS
IN
SERGEANT! THAT'S THE GENERAL'S OFFICE! YOU CAN'T JUST BUST IN!
NO SUCH THING AS 'CAN'T'! MAYBE THE GENERAL'LL HAVE ME SHOT AT DAWN FOR DOIN' IT. BUT NOT BEFORE I HAVE MY SAY!


BUT WHAT HE HEARD WHEN HE OPENED THE DOOR BROUGHT JOE UP SHORT . . .
THERE'S FIFTEEN THOUSAND MEN AT LEAST, SIR! ALL WITH JAPANESE ANCESTRY AND ALL LOYAL AMERICANS. THEY WANT TO FIGHT, GENERAL.
IRONSIDE? AS YOU'RE ALREADY IN, CLOSE THE DOOR AND LISTEN TO THE MAJOR HERE. I'D LIKE YOUR OPINION!


THE BIG SERGEANT BLINKED AWAY HIS ASTONISHMENT, AND PITCHED IN . . .
GENERAL, WHAT THE MAJOR JUST SAID IS WHAT I CAME TO SAY. IT'S CRAZY NOT TO GIVE THESE JAPANESE-HAWAIIAN BOYS A FIGHTIN' CHANCE!
THE MAJOR'S IDEA IS TO FORM THEM INTO A SPECIAL COMBAT UNIT AND LET THEM LOOSE AGAINST THE GERMANS!

RIGHT, MAJOR! THIS THREE-STRIPER HAS HIS FAULTS – LIKE BURSTING INTO A GENERAL'S OFFICE WITHOUT BEING ASKED. BUT JOE IRONSIDE IS THE BEST JUDGE OF MEN I'VE KNOWN.
U.S.


AND SO THE ONE-STAR GENERAL CAME TO A DECISION THAT WAS TO LEAD TO THE WRITING OF A GLORIOUS CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. FIGHTING FORCES . . .
YOU HAVE MY PROMISE THAT I'LL DO ALL IN MY POWER TO GET THIS SPECIAL COMBAT UNIT UNDER WAY, MAJOR.
THANK YOU, SIR! AND THANK YOU, SERGEANT!

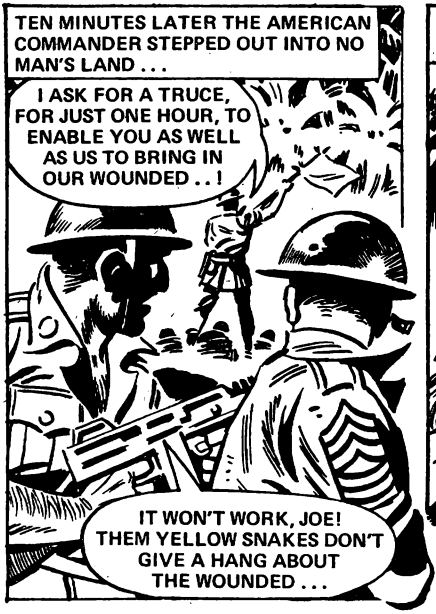
WHEN THE MAJOR HAD GONE . . .
YOU'RE KEEN ON GETTING OTHERS INTO THIS SCRAP, IRONSIDE, WELL, I'VE DECIDED THAT YOU, TEX McGLUSKY, AND SOME OTHERS, ARE TOO VALUABLE TO BE ON NON-COMBAT DUTIES. I'M SENDING A BUNCH OF YOU TO WHERE THE FIGHTING IS!
US

SAIGON
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
US
WE'RE FLYING YOU TO THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. THE JAPS HAVE ALREADY LANDED ON LUZON, AND THEY'RE GOING ALL-OUT TO CAPTURE THE CAPITAL – MANILA. I JUST HOPE WE CAN STOP THEM!

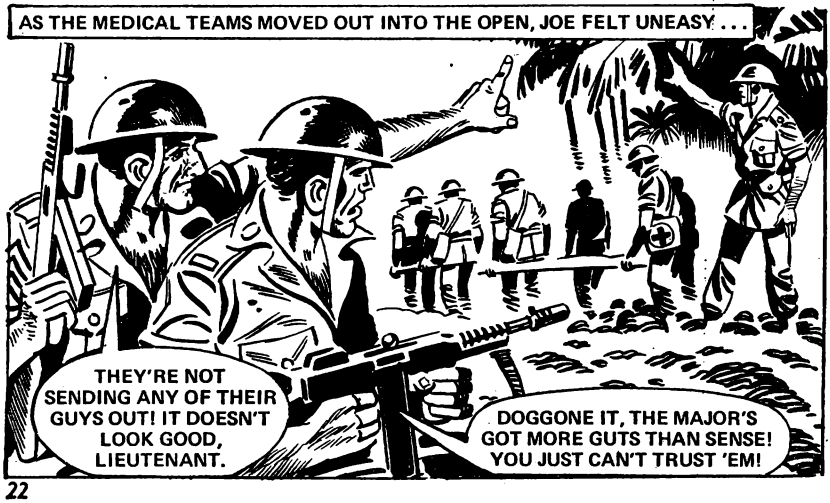
Chapter 2. THE SECOND ENEMY

SUDDENLY THE AMERICAN SWITCHED FROM DEFENCE, TO ATTACK . . .
AAAAAARGH!
AAAAHHH!

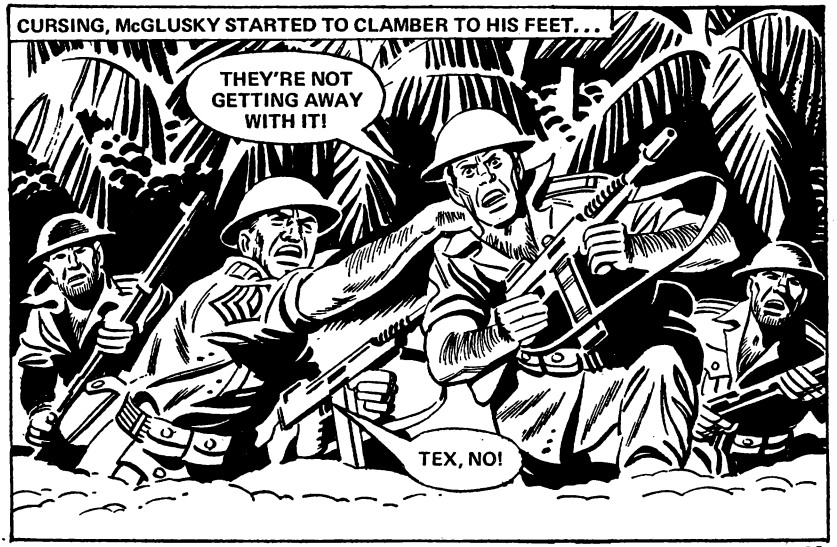
AGAINST THAT FIERCE ATTACK THE JAPANESE TURNED AND FLED BACK INTO THE JUNGLE . . .
GET BACK TO COVER!
WE'VE BROKEN THE ATTACK! BUT AT A HIGH PRICE!

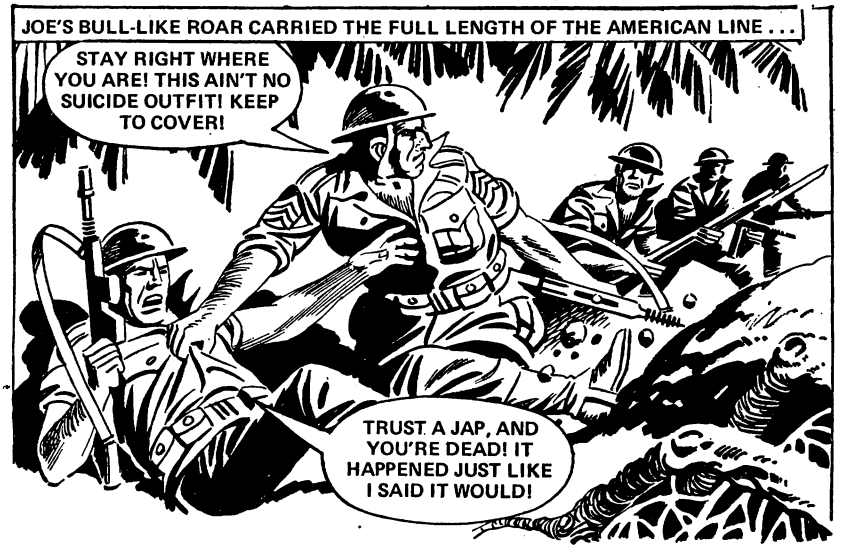

TEN MINUTES LATER THE AMERICAN COMMANDER STEPPED OUT INTO NO MAN'S LAND . . .
I ASK FOR A TRUCE, FOR JUST ONE HOUR, TO ENABLE YOU AS WELL AS US TO BRING IN OUR WOUNDED . . !
IT WON'T WORK, JOE! THEM YELLOW SNAKES DON'T GIVE A HANG ABOUT THE WOUNDED . . .

BUT AFTER A PAUSE THE UNSEEN JAPS AGREED . . .
LIEUTENANT! GET THE MEDICS OUT HERE!


AS THE MEDICAL TEAMS MOVED OUT INTO THE OPEN, JOE FELT UNEASY . . .
THEY'RE NOT SENDING ANY OF THEIR GUYS OUT! IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, LIEUTENANT.
DOGGONE IT, THE MAJOR'S GOT MORE GUTS THAN SENSE! YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST 'EM!

AND THEN, WITH HEART-NUMBING SUDDENNESS, THE ENEMY NAMBU GUNS OPENED UP . . .
AAGHHHH!
BACK! THEY'VE TRICKED . . . AAAARGH!


CURSING, McGLUSKY STARTED TO CLAMBER TO HIS FEET. . .
THEY'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH IT!
TEX, NO!


JOE'S BULL-LIKE ROAR CARRIED THE FULL LENGTH OF THE AMERICAN LINE . . .
STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE! THIS AIN'T NO SUICIDE OUTFIT! KEEP TO COVER!
TRUST A JAP, AND YOU'RE DEAD! IT HAPPENED JUST LIKE I SAID IT WOULD!

NOW, COOL OFF, TEX. NO POINT IN GETTING YOUR HEAD BLOWN OFF FOR NO GOOD REASON.
SERGEANT IRONSIDE! THE COLONEL WANTS YOU BACK AT FIELD H.Q.

WHEN HE REACHED H.Q. IT WAS JOE'S TURN TO LOSE HIS TEMPER...

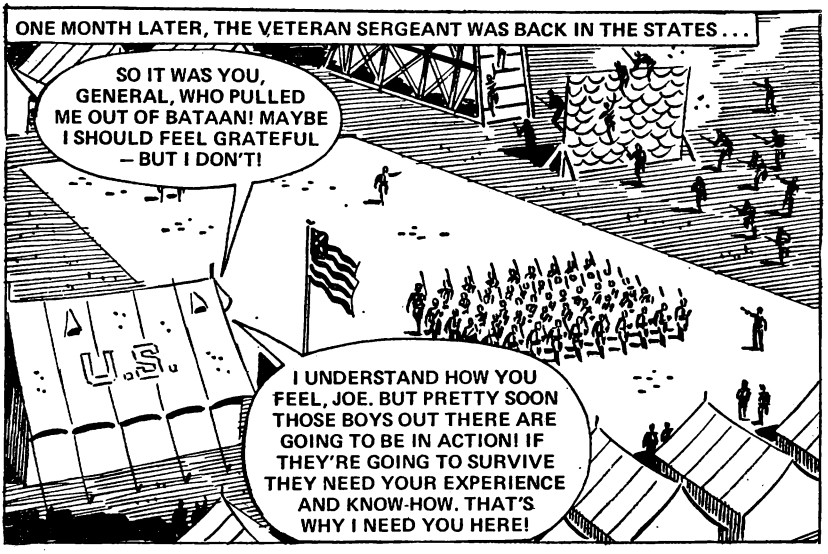
LEAVE BATAAN? JUST WHEN THE GOIN'S GETTIN' TOUGHER? SIR ... YOU CAN'T ASK ME TO DO SUCH A THING ...!

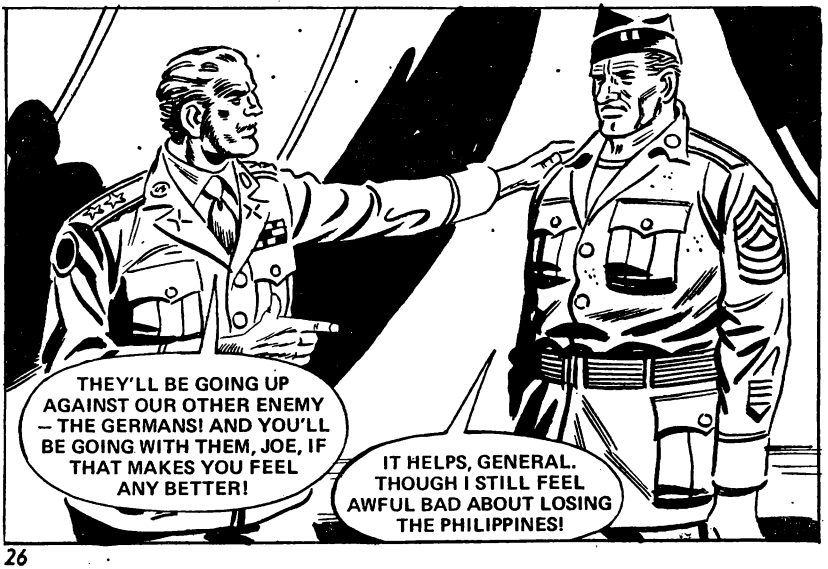
I'M NOT ASKING, I'M TELLING! I'VE BEEN GIVEN MY ORDERS, AND NOW I'M GIVING YOU YOURS. THE LAST PLANE OUT OF BATAAN IS WAITING AT THE AIRSTRIP. YOU'RE TO BE ON IT!

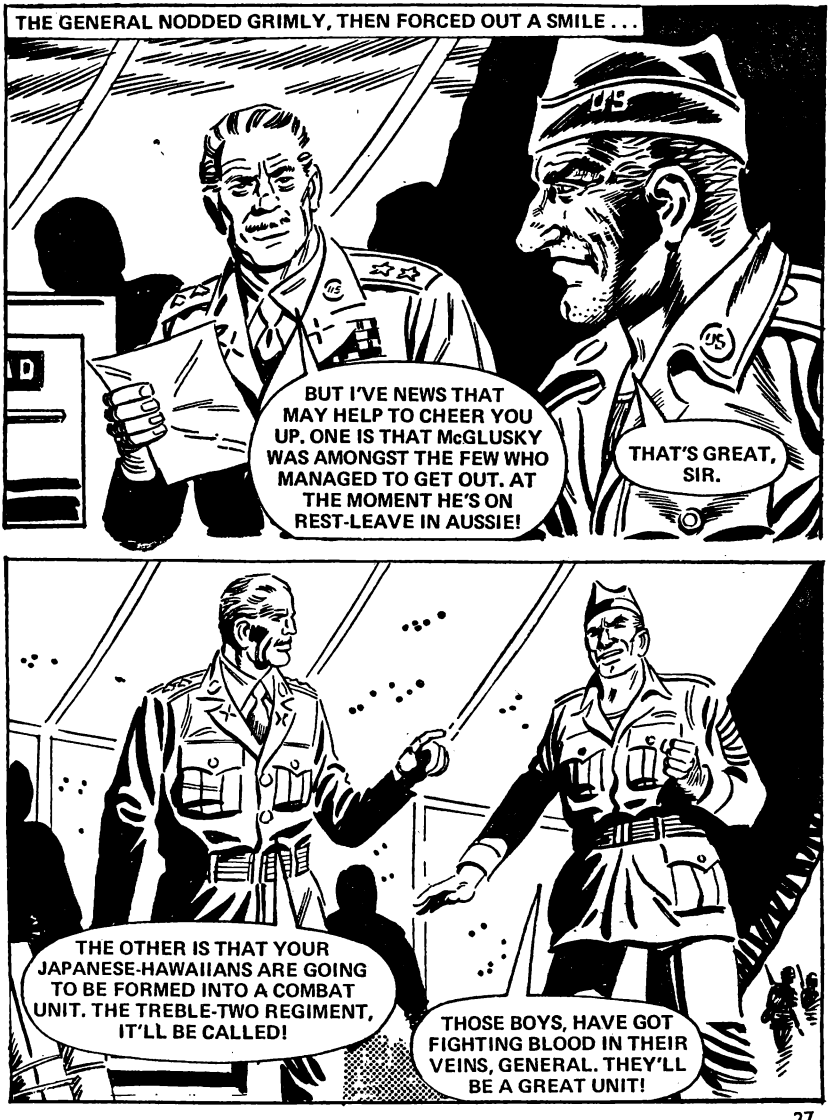
AN HOUR LATER IRONSIDE WAS IN THE AIRCRAFT AS IT TURNED SOUTH, TOWARDS THE SAFETY OF PORT MORESBY...

I JUST DON'T GET IT, SKIPPER! IF IT WAS ME JUST BEEN PULLED OUT OF THAT HELL-SPOT I'D BE LAUGHING!

SOME GUYS DON'T LIKE TO LEAVE A FIGHT TILL IT'S FINISHED. THAT SERGEANT JOE IRONSIDE, HE'S ONE OF THEM!


ONE MONTH LATER, THE VETERAN SERGEANT WAS BACK IN THE STATES . . .
SO IT WAS YOU, GENERAL, WHO PULLED ME OUT OF BATAAN! MAYBE I SHOULD FEEL GRATEFUL – BUT I DON'T!
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, JOE. BUT PRETTY SOON THOSE BOYS OUT THERE ARE GOING TO BE IN ACTION! IF THEY'RE GOING TO SURVIVE THEY NEED YOUR EXPERIENCE AND KNOW-HOW. THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU HERE!


THEY'LL BE GOING UP AGAINST OUR OTHER ENEMY – THE GERMANS! AND YOU'LL BE GOING WITH THEM, JOE, IF THAT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER!
IT HELPS, GENERAL. THOUGH I STILL FEEL AWFUL BAD ABOUT LOSING THE PHILIPPINES!


THE GENERAL NODDED GRIMLY, THEN FORCED OUT A SMILE . . .
BUT I'VE NEWS THAT MAY HELP TO CHEER YOU UP. ONE IS THAT McGLUSKY WAS AMONGST THE FEW WHO MANAGED TO GET OUT. AT THE MOMENT HE'S ON REST-LEAVE IN AUSSIE!
THAT'S GREAT, SIR.
THE OTHER IS THAT YOUR JAPANESE-HAWAIIANS ARE GOING TO BE FORMED INTO A COMBAT UNIT. THE TREBLE-TWO REGIMENT, IT'LL BE CALLED!
THOSE BOYS, HAVE GOT FIGHTING BLOOD IN THEIR VEINS, GENERAL. THEY'LL BE A GREAT UNIT!

FOR TOP SERGEANT JOE IRONSIDE THE SIXTEEN MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED WAS FIGHTING ALL THE WAY FROM TUNISIA TO THE HELL OF SICILY . . .

AND IN THAT SIXTEEN MONTHS A LEGEND WAS FORGED OUT OF THE HOT STEEL OF BATTLE . . .
OKAY, LADS, MOVE ON UP! THE KRAUTS DON'T SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN US ANY MORE!
TALK ABOUT A ONE-MAN ARMY! WHY DON'T THEY JUST SEND US BACK HOME AND LEAVE ALL THE NAZIS TO JOE?

THEN, IN SEPTEMBER 1943, CAME SALERNO . . .
THE NAVY GUNS HAVE HIT SMACK ON TARGET! IT LOOKS LIKE THE WAY'S CLEAR!
ON YOUR FEET, YOU GUYS! WE'VE BEEN PINNED ON THIS BEACH TOO DARNED LONG! LET'S START MOVIN' ON!

FOR TWO DAYS MANY UNITS REMAINED PINNED TO THE DEADLY BEACHES, BUT JOE IRONSIDE WAS WITH ONE OF THE OUTFITS THAT CUT THEIR WAY DEEP INLAND . . .
JOE, THE OLD MAN'S ASKED ME TO SEND A PATROL OUT. THE BRASS NEED TO KNOW IF THE GERMANS ARE STILL AT PERSANO TOWN!
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, CAPTAIN! I'LL TAKE A DOZEN MEN.

THE GERMANS WERE STILL AT PERSANO, AS JOE FOUND OUT . . .
TAKE COVER!
SARGE, LOOK! BEHIND US!

FROM THE REAR ENEMY PANZERS MOVED TO SEAL OFF ANY RETREAT...

NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT PANZERS, SARGE! WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A BAZOOKA!

ONE BAZOOKA WOULDN'T HELP!

THE TANK'S GUNS OPENED UP MERCILESSLY...

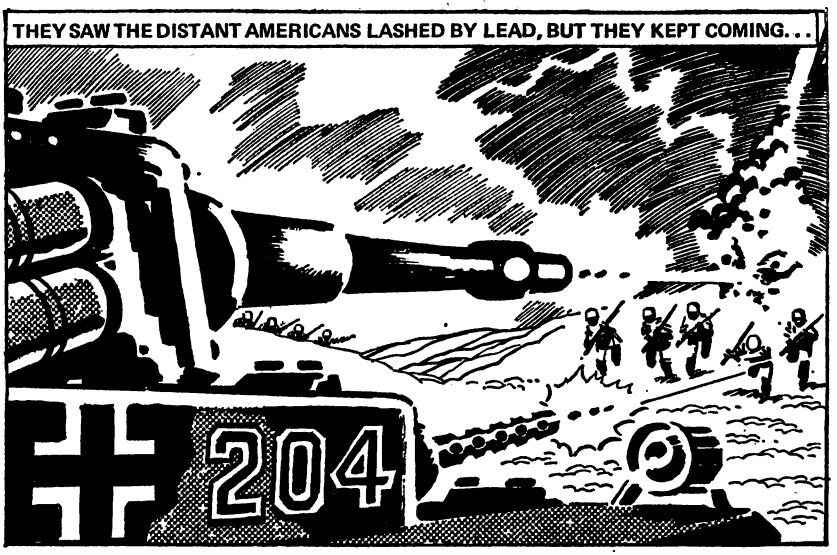
THEY'RE STAYING BACK! WE CAN'T EVEN GET AT THEM WITH GRENADES!

IF WE TRY TO RUN THEY'LL GET US! IF WE STAY HERE THEY'LL GET US!

BUT SUDDENLY THERE WERE NO LONGER JUST PANZERS BEHIND THEM...

IT'S SOME OF OUR GUYS!

HIMMEL! GUNNER, TRAVERSE RIGHT...RIGHT!


THEY SAW THE DISTANT AMERICANS LASHED BY LEAD, BUT THEY KEPT COMING...
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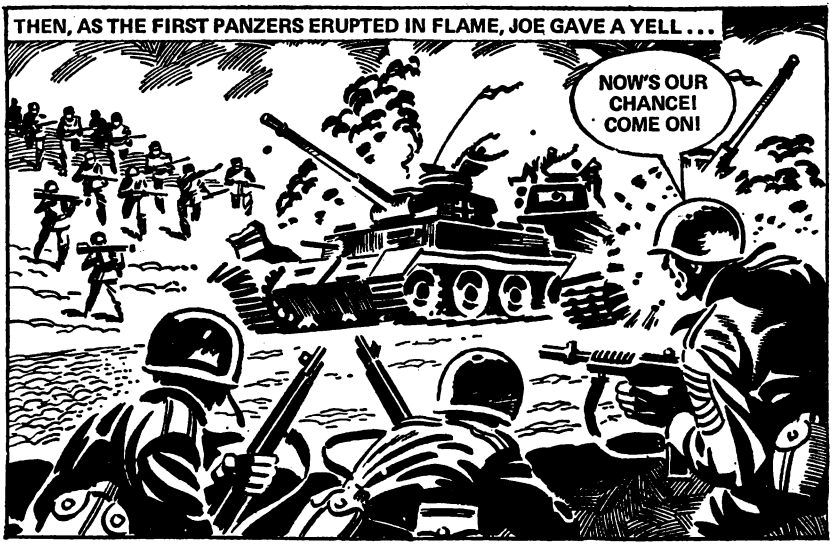

THEN, AS THE FIRST PANZERS ERUPTED IN FLAME, JOE GAVE A YELL...
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! COME ON!

DID YA SEE THAT? HEROES, THOSE GUYS ARE! GOLDARNED HEROES, ALL OF 'EM!

THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY GOT A CLOSE LOOK AT THEIR RESCUERS . . .
THEY'RE JAPS!
NOT THIS FAR FROM HOME, SOLDIER. THEY'RE HAWAIIANS! AND I KNOW THAT ONE!
SERGEANT IRONSIDE!

KIM SOONG, IT'S LUCKY FOR US YOU GUYS WERE NEAR! ONE OF MY BOYS CALLED YOU HEROES AND I GO WITH THAT ALL THE WAY!
NOT HEROES. BUT WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO FIGHT, SERGEANT!

KIM'S SMILE WAS REPLACED BY A LOOK OF QUIET DETERMINATION . . .
NOW THAT WE ISLANDERS HAVE FORMED OUR OWN "CORAL REEF" BATTALION WE CAN DEFEAT THE TWO ENEMIES THAT FACE US!
TWO ENEMIES, KIM? THE KRAUT'S ONE! BUT WHAT'S THE OTHER?

WE ALSO HAVE TO FIGHT TO PROVE WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL OURSLEVES LOYAL AMERICANS.
BY WHAT I'VE SEEN YOU'LL LICK THAT SECOND ENEMY IN NO TIME AT ALL!

Chapter 3. DEATH TRAP

FOR SEVERAL DAYS OBERST SCHEER STUDIED THE PROBLEM THAT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO HIM, THEN WITH COLD RUTHLESSNESS HE MADE HIS DECISION . . .

IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, HERR OBERST. THE AMERICANS ARE MOVING NORTH FROM SALERNO. AND THE "CORAL REEF" BATTALION IS AMONGST THEM!

JUST AS I THOUGHT. VERY WELL, WE WILL DESTROY THESE TRAITORS HERE – AT MONTE CASSINO!

WITH HIS UNIT OF SPECIALLY-PICKED MEN, COLONEL SCHEER MOVED TO A POSITION JUST SOUTH OF THE GRIM, MONASTERY-CAPPED MOUNTAIN . . .

WE DIG-IN HERE, ON THE NORTH SLOPE OF THE RAPIDO. WHEN THE TRAITORS TRY TO CROSS IT I WANT THEM TO RUN INTO A SOLID WALL OF MORTAR AND MACHINE GUN FIRE!

AN EXCELLENT PLAN, HERR OBERST. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO COVER! THEY WILL BE MASSACRED!

THREE DAYS LATER, WITHIN SIGHT OF THE RAPIDO, TWO OLD FRIENDS MET AGAIN . . .

JOE, YOU OLE GRIZZLY! I HEAR YOU'VE WON SO MANY MEDALS IT'D TAKE A TRUCK TO CARRY 'EM ALL!

VERY FUNNY, CAPTAIN SIR! GIVE ME A LIFT, TEX. I GOTTA GO TO THE H.Q.!

THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING. I'VE BEEN IN BURMA THE PAST YEAR. FLEW INTO ITALY JUST YESTERDAY. AND NOW I'M BACK WITH MY OLD REGIMENT!

THE TWENTY-FOURTH TEXAS! THIS'LL BE THEIR FIRST TIME IN COMBAT, WON'T IT?

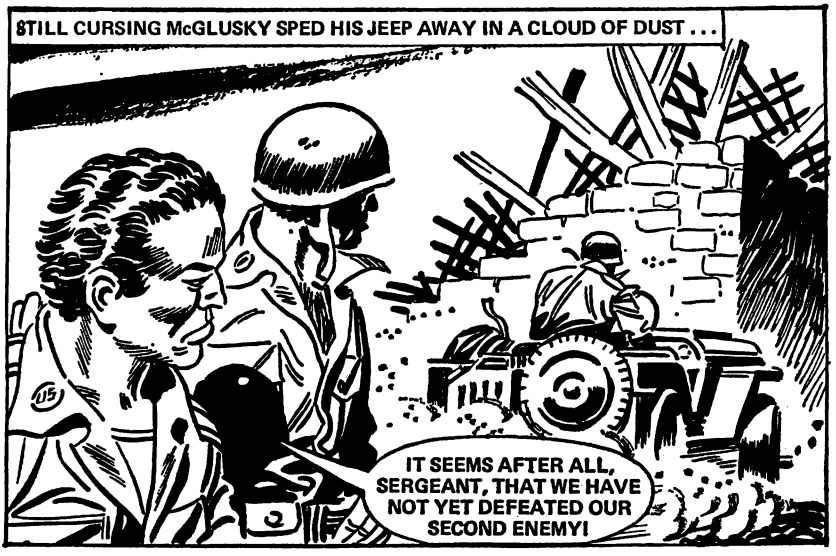
CAPTAIN McGLUSKY GRINNED CONFIDENTLY AS HE SWUNG THE JEEP UP THE TRACK THAT LED TO DIVISION H.Q. . . .

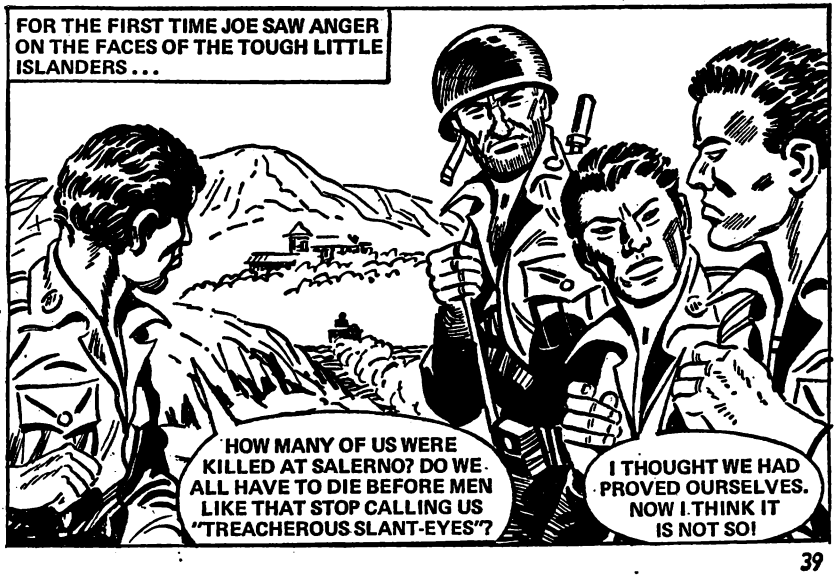
THAT'S RIGHT, JOE! AND I TELL YOU, THESE BOYS ARE SPOILIN' FOR A FIGHT!

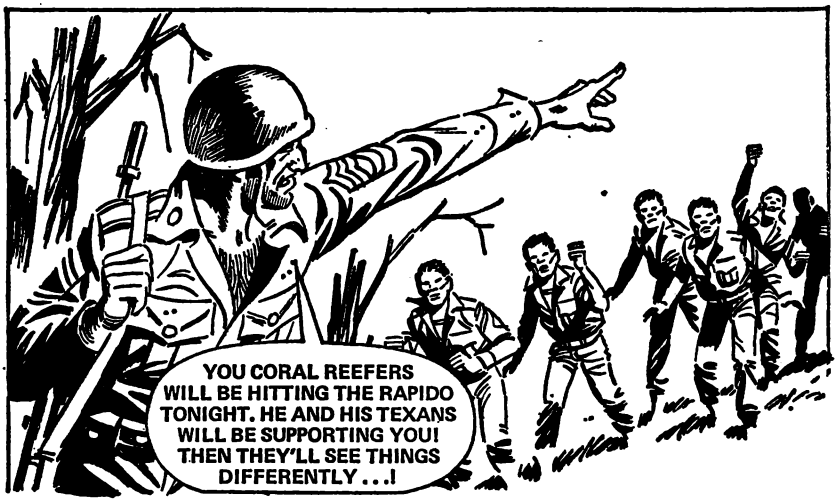
THEY'LL SOON GET THEIR CHANCE, TEX!

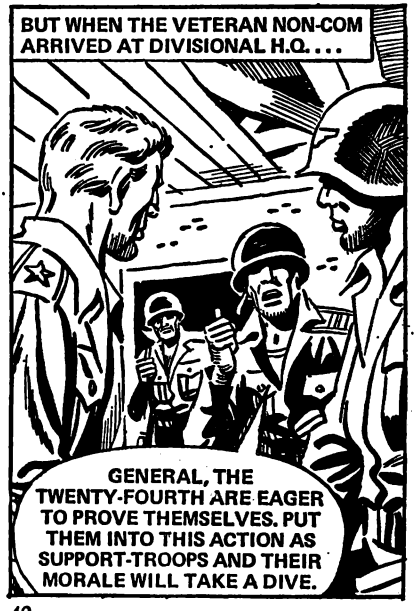
SUDDENLY THE BIG IRISH-TEXAN SLAMMED ON THE BRAKES . . .
WHAT IN TARNATION? HOW COME THEY LET THESE SNEAKIN' DEVILS INTO AMERICAN UNIFORMS?
THESE BOYS ARE JUST ABOUT THE FINEST SOLDIERS I'VE COME ACROSS!

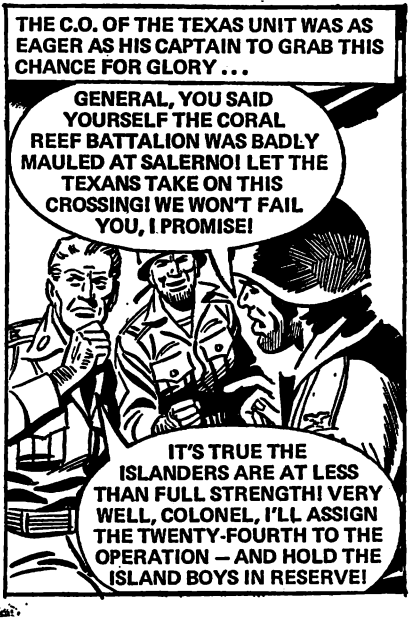
McGLUSKY APPEARED NOT TO HAVE EVEN HEARD HIS OLD FRIEND . . .
I'VE SEEN WHAT THE JAPS DID TO OUR BOYS AT PEARL, AT BATAAN AND IN BURMA.
THAT'S ENOUGH, TEX. CAPTAIN OR NOT, I'M NOT GOIN' TO JUST STAND BY AND LET YOU SOUND-OFF.


STILL CURSING McGLUSKY SPED HIS JEEP AWAY IN A CLOUD OF DUST . . .
IT SEEMS AFTER ALL, SERGEANT, THAT WE HAVE NOT YET DEFEATED OUR SECOND ENEMY!

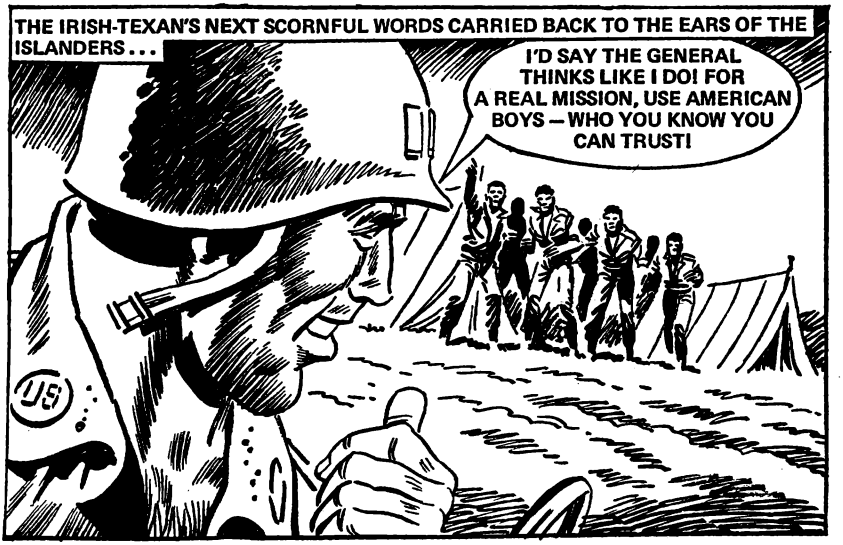

FOR THE FIRST TIME JOE SAW ANGER ON THE FACES OF THE TOUGH LITTLE ISLANDERS . . .
HOW MANY OF US WERE KILLED AT SALERNO? DO WE ALL HAVE TO DIE BEFORE MEN LIKE THAT STOP CALLING US "TREACHEROUS SLANT-EYES"?
I THOUGHT WE HAD PROVED OURSELVES. NOW I THINK IT IS NOT SO!

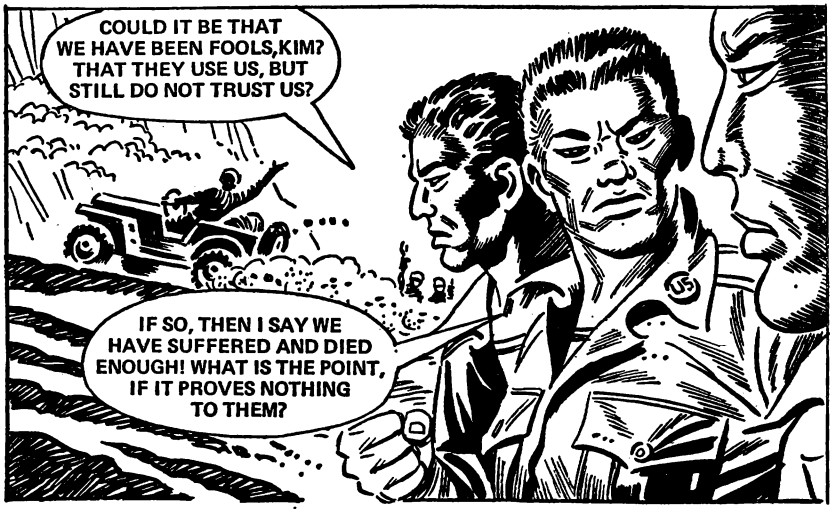

YOU CORAL REEFERS WILL BE HITTING THE RAPIDO TONIGHT. HE AND HIS TEXANS WILL BE SUPPORTING YOU! THEN THEY'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY . . . !

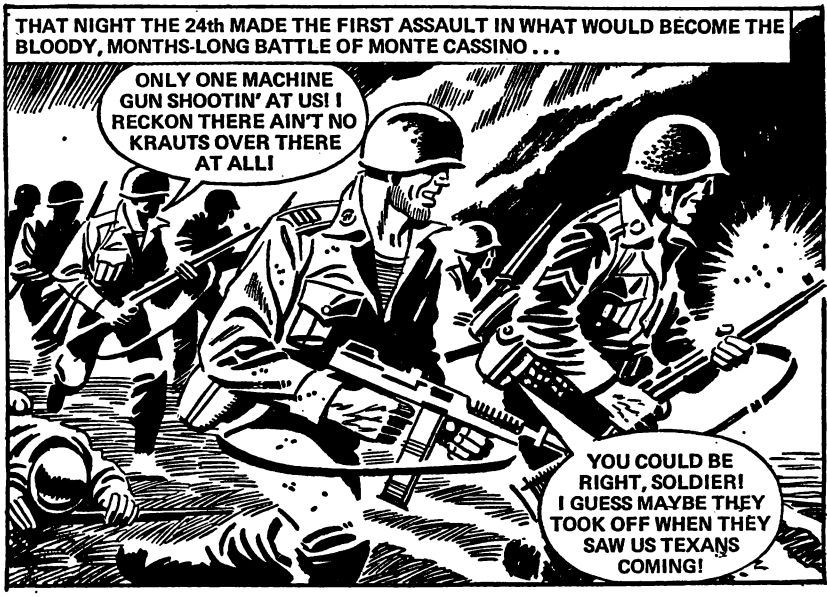

BUT WHEN THE VETERAN NON-COM ARRIVED AT DIVISIONAL H.Q. . . .
GENERAL, THE TWENTY-FOURTH ARE EAGER TO PROVE THEMSELVES. PUT THEM INTO THIS ACTION AS SUPPORT-TROOPS AND THEIR MORALE WILL TAKE A DIVE.

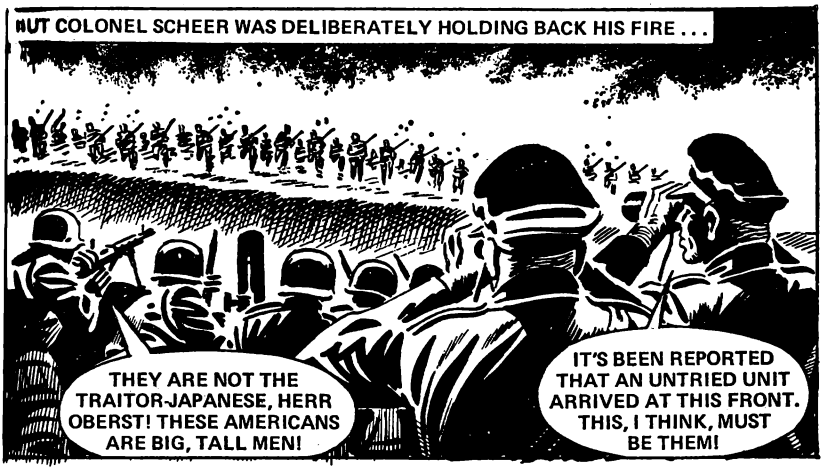

THE C.O. OF THE TEXAS UNIT WAS AS EAGER AS HIS CAPTAIN TO GRAB THIS CHANCE FOR GLORY . . .
GENERAL, YOU SAID YOURSELF THE CORAL REEF BATTALION WAS BADLY MAULED AT SALERNO! LET THE TEXANS TAKE ON THIS CROSSING! WE WON'T FAIL YOU, I PROMISE!
IT'S TRUE THE ISLANDERS ARE AT LESS THAN FULL STRENGTH! VERY WELL, COLONEL, I'LL ASSIGN THE TWENTY-FOURTH TO THE OPERATION — AND HOLD THE ISLAND BOYS IN RESERVE!

ELATED, CAPTAIN McGLUSKY DROVE BACK TO HIS MEN . . .
SADDLE UP, YOU TEXAS WILDCATS! IT'S BEEN DECIDED THE BEST OUTFIT TO HIT THE RAPIDO IS THE GOOD OLE ALL-AMERICAN TWENTY-FOURTH!


THE IRISH-TEXAN'S NEXT SCORNFUL WORDS CARRIED BACK TO THE EARS OF THE ISLANDERS . . .
I'D SAY THE GENERAL THINKS LIKE I DO! FOR A REAL MISSION, USE AMERICAN BOYS — WHO YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST!

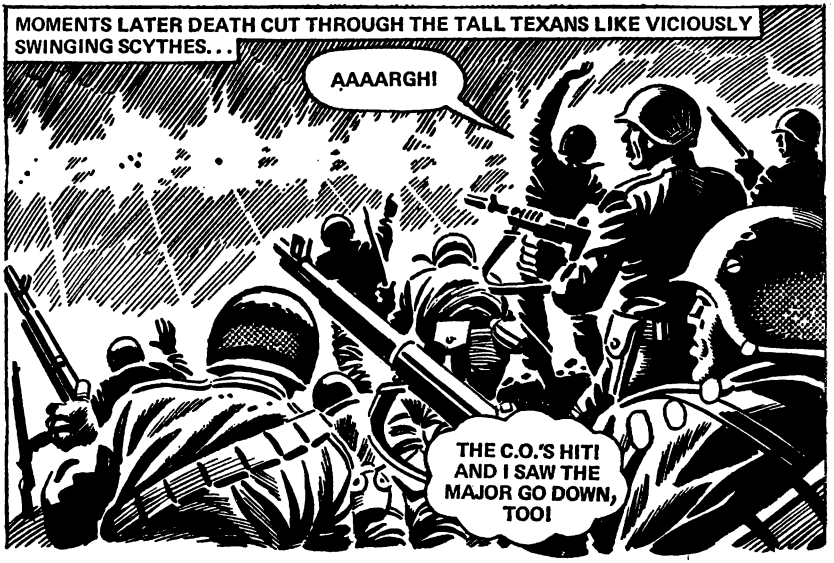

COULD IT BE THAT WE HAVE BEEN FOOLS,KIM? THAT THEY USE US, BUT STILL DO NOT TRUST US?
IF SO, THEN I SAY WE HAVE SUFFERED AND DIED ENOUGH! WHAT IS THE POINT, IF IT PROVES NOTHING TO THEM?


THAT NIGHT THE 24th MADE THE FIRST ASSAULT IN WHAT WOULD BECOME THE BLOODY, MONTHS-LONG BATTLE OF MONTE CASSINO . . .
ONLY ONE MACHINE GUN SHOOTIN' AT US! I RECKON THERE AIN'T NO KRAUTS OVER THERE AT ALL!
YOU COULD BE RIGHT, SOLDIER! I GUESS MAYBE THEY TOOK OFF WHEN THEY SAW US TEXANS COMING!


BUT COLONEL SCHEER WAS DELIBERATELY HOLDING BACK HIS FIRE . . .
THEY ARE NOT THE TRAITOR-JAPANESE, HERR OBERST! THESE AMERICANS ARE BIG, TALL MEN!
IT'S BEEN REPORTED THAT AN UNTRIED UNIT ARRIVED AT THIS FRONT. THIS, I THINK, MUST BE THEM!

BUT WE ARE HERE TO DESTROY THE HAWAIINS, HERR OBERST! WHAT DO WE DO?
THE TRAITORS MUST BE BEING HELD IN RESERVE! THEREFORE WE WILL ENSURE THE AMERICANS HAVE TO THROW IN THEIR RESERVES!

COLDLY, COLONEL SCHEER GAVE THE ORDER THAT WAS TO TURN THE DRY RAPIDO RIVER BED INTO A BLOOD-BATH . . .
SO, FIRST, WE WIPE OUT THESE TEXANS. THEN THE AMERICAN COMMANDERS WILL SEND US OUR JAPANESE! OPEN FIRE!


MOMENTS LATER DEATH CUT THROUGH THE TALL TEXANS LIKE VICIOUSLY SWINGING SCYTHES...
AAAARGH!
THE C.O.'S HIT! AND I SAW THE MAJOR GO DOWN, TOO!

ADDED TO THE MURDEROUS CROSSFIRE, CAME THE SCREECHING MORTARS, BUT NOT A SINGLE TEXAN THOUGHT OF TURNING BACK...
AAAAHHH!
WE AIN'T GOT FAR TO GO! KEEP RUNNIN'!

EVERY FOOT OF GROUND CROSSED, COST A TEXAN LIFE – BUT, INCREDIBLY, OTHERS REACHED THE FAR BANK, McGLUSKY AMONGST THEM . . .
OVER THE TOP AND DIG IN, CAPTAIN?
DIG IN, NOTHIN'! WE KEEP RIGHT ON GOIN'! UP THAT HILL THERE!
THEIR MINDS BATTERED BY THE DIN OF BATTLE, ALL THE TEXANS COULD THINK OF WAS REVENGING THEIR DEAD . . .
WE DON'T DIG IN LIKE RABBITS! WE TAKE THE HIGH-GROUND! FROM UP THERE WE'LL GET IN SOME GOOD SHOOTIN'!
YOU HEARD THE WORD, MEN! LET'S GO!

McGLUSKY WAS THE FIRST OVER THE BANK. THEN...

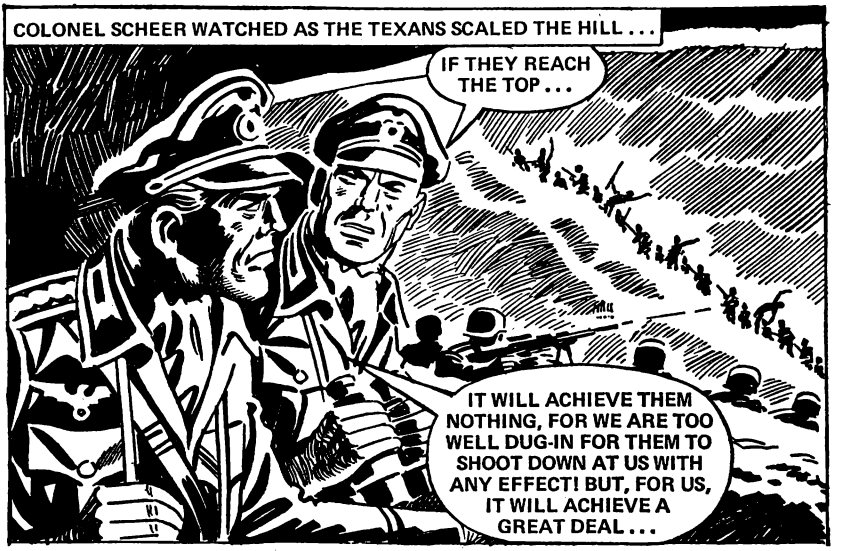
AAAAARGH!

THE CAPTAIN'S BOUGHT IT!

A YOUNG LIEUTENANT PAUSED FOR JUST A MOMENT, THEN TOOK ON FROM WHERE BIG TEX McGLUSKY LEFT OFF...

COME ON! LET'S TAKE THAT HIGH GROUND!

OVER THERE! IT'S THE CAPTAIN!

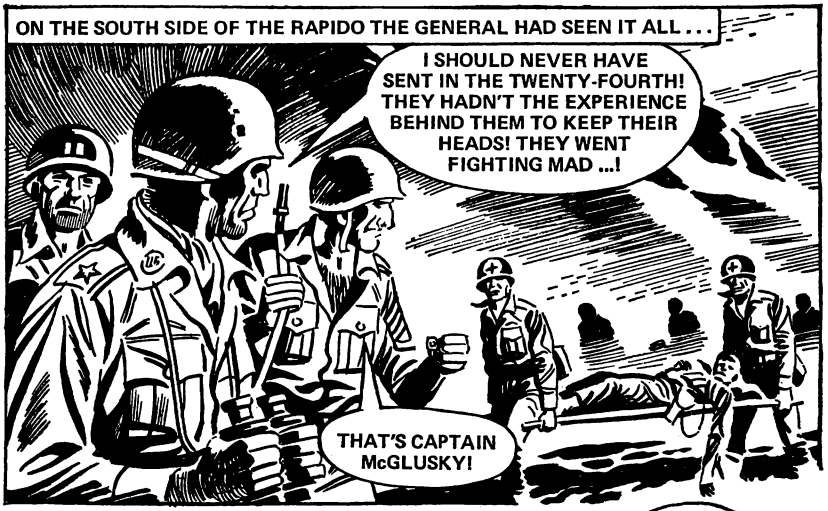

COLONEL SCHEER WATCHED AS THE TEXANS SCALED THE HILL . . .
IF THEY REACH THE TOP . . .
IT WILL ACHIEVE THEM NOTHING, FOR WE ARE TOO WELL DUG-IN FOR THEM TO SHOOT DOWN AT US WITH ANY EFFECT! BUT, FOR US, IT WILL ACHIEVE A GREAT DEAL . . .

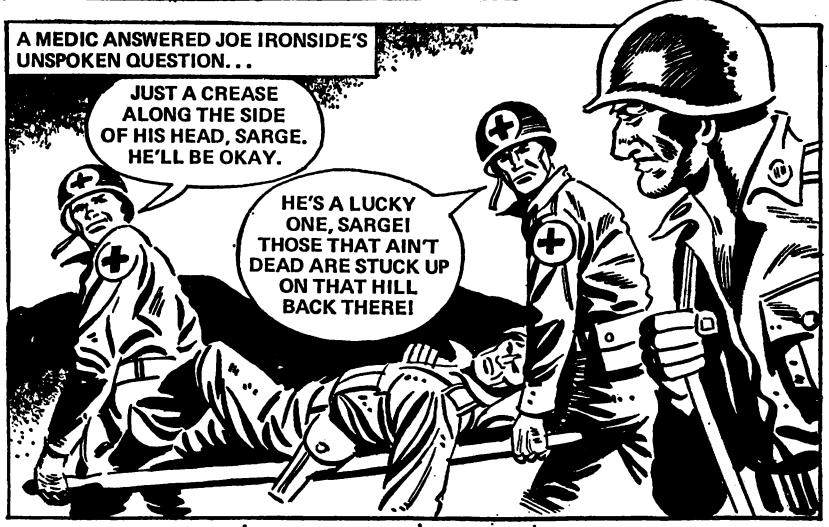
ONCE UP THERE THEY WILL PROVIDE BAIT TO LURE IN THE TRAITOR-JAPANESE! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THEM THERE!

ONCE ON THE HILLTOP THE TEXANS REALISED THEIR MISTAKE . . .
LIEUTENANT, YOU CAN HARDLY SEE 'EM FROM UP HERE! MAYBE WE OUGHTA GET BACK TO THE RIVERBANK AND DIG IN DOWN THERE!
OVER HERE, LIEUTENANT! WE'RE IN TROUBLE!

COLONEL SCHEER'S TRAP WAS READY . . .
THEY'VE CUT-OFF OUR WAY BACK!
LOOKS BAD, LIEUTENANT! THE KRAUTS HAVE GOT US TRAPPED UP HERE!

Chapter 4. GLORY HILL





JOE HEARD THE GENERAL'S DESPAIRING VOICE, AND KNEW FOR SURE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT . . .

THERE MUST BE FIVE HUNDRED OF OUR MEN UP THERE. NOW WE'VE NOT ONLY GOT TO RE-CROSS THE RIVERBED . . . WE'VE GOT TO GET THOSE MEN DOWN FROM THAT HILL AS WELL!

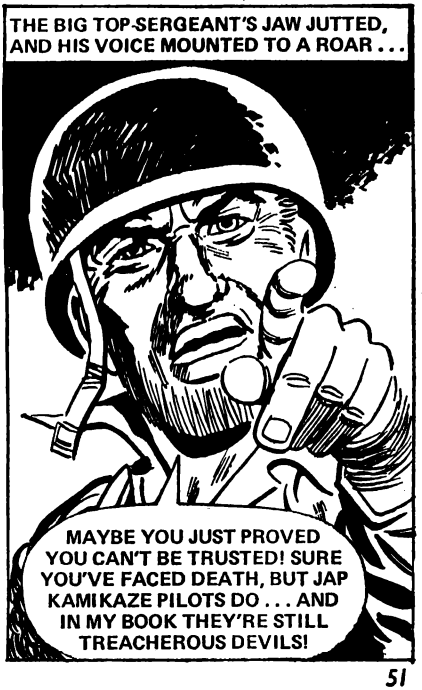
HE'S GOING TO CALL ON THE CORAL REEF BOYS TO GO IN! THERE'S NO OTHER RESERVE TROOPS HE CAN USE.

JOE SLIPPED AWAY AND HURRIED TOWARDS THE REAR LINES . . .

I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TELL THEM FIRST! I'VE AN AWFUL HUNCH THAT LOUDMOUTHED McGLUSKY HIT THEM HARD – RIGHT WHERE THEIR PRIDE IS!

THE SITUATION WAS WORSE THAN JOE HAD FEARED
NO! LET OTHERS MAKE THE CROSSING!
WE DID NOT ENLIST TO BE SPONGES TO ABSORB GERMAN BULLETS, SO THAT OTHERS CAN LIVE TO SNEER AT US!

JOE KNEW THERE WAS NO HOPE OF REASONING WITH THEM, NOR WAS THERE TIME FOR IT . . .
THE OFFICER, McGLUSKY, TOLD US HIMSELF. THE GENERAL THINKS WE ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED, SO LET THE GENERAL FIND OTHER MEN TO SAVE THESE TEXANS!
McGLUSKY'S BROUGHT THEM RIGHT TO THE EDGE OF SHEER MUTINY! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!


THE BIG TOP-SERGEANT'S JAW JUTTED, AND HIS VOICE MOUNTED TO A ROAR . . .
MAYBE YOU JUST PROVED YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED! SURE YOU'VE FACED DEATH, BUT JAP KAMIKAZE PILOTS DO . . . AND IN MY BOOK THEY'RE STILL TREACHEROUS DEVILS!

CRIES OF ANGER CAME FROM THE MASSED ISLANDERS, BUT JOE IRONSIDE ROARED ON. . .

WHAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IS CARRYING THROUGH THE MISSION, NO MATTER HOW ROUGH! BUT YOU LITTLE JERKS WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT . . .

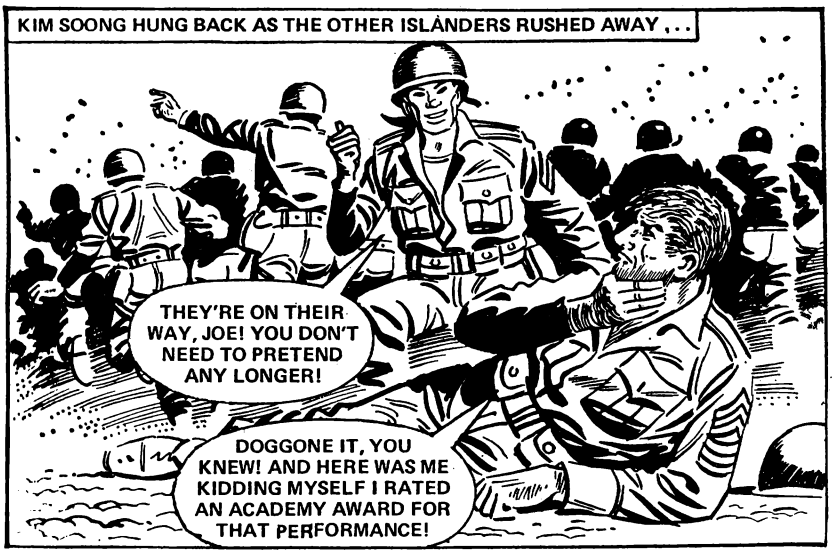
MAYBE McGLUSKY'S RIGHT! WE CAN'T GO DEPENDING ON YOU GUYS. BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED! YOU PUT YOUR PRIDE FIRST!

THAT'S ENOUGH, SERGEANT!

JOE DUCKED THE BIG IRI AND HIT HIS SWINGING FIST
YOU CAN'T EVEN LAND A PUNCH LET ALONE CHOKE A KHAUT-COVERED HIVEHIRDI

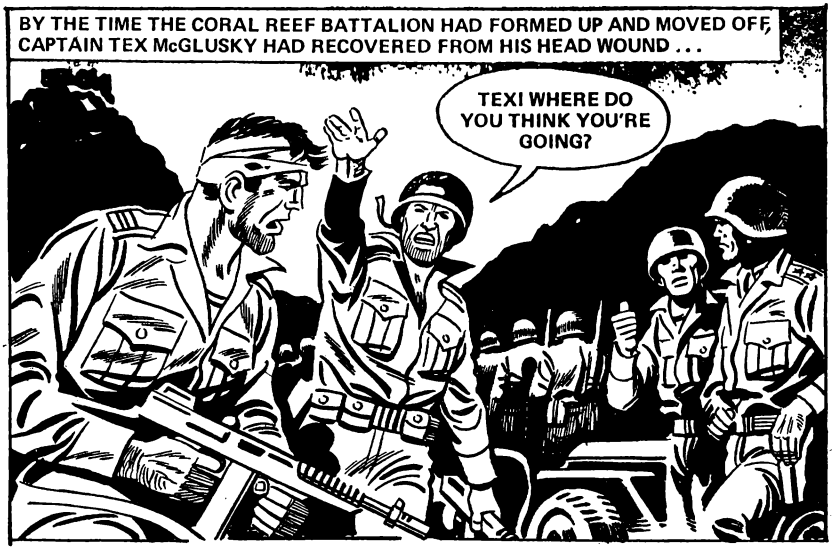
BUT THEN THE TOP SERGEANT SEEMED TO WALK STRAIGHT INTO THE FOLLOW-UP PUNCH . . .
AAGHI

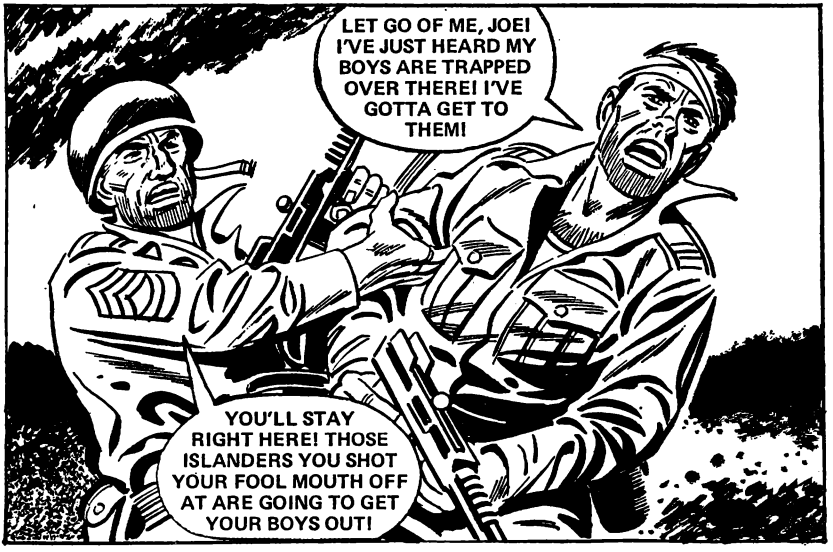
AS JOE IRONSIDE HIT THE GROUND . . .
THEY'RE ALL WRONG! WE CAN CROSS THAT RIVER! WE'LL SHOW THEM THAT WE CAN DO IT!


KIM SOONG HUNG BACK AS THE OTHER ISLANDERS RUSHED AWAY . . .
THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY, JOE! YOU DON'T NEED TO PRETEND ANY LONGER!
DOGGONE IT, YOU KNEW! AND HERE WAS ME KIDDING MYSELF I RATED AN ACADEMY AWARD FOR THAT PERFORMANCE!

SOME OF US KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING! YOU SAID THOSE THINGS JUST TO MAKE US ANGRY! SO WE WOULD WANT TO HIT BACK.

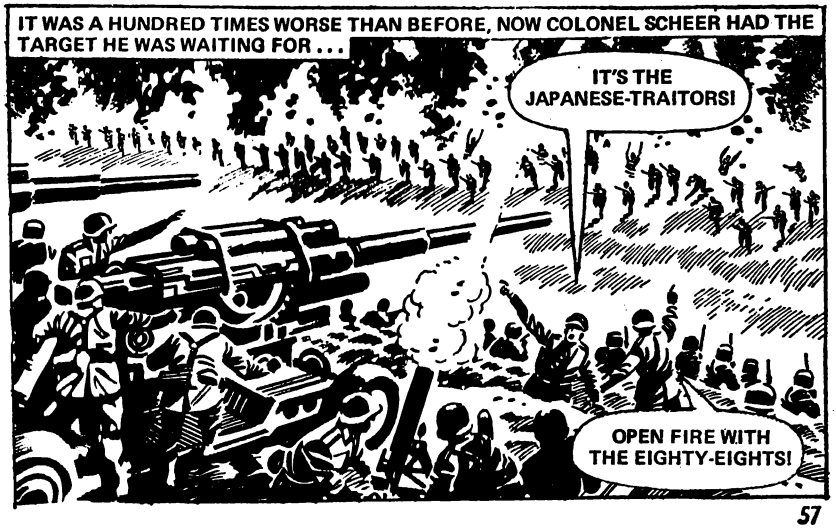
WE MIGHT HAVE MADE FOOLS OF OURSELVES, JOE. THANKS FOR STOPPING US.
BY DAWN, MAYBE HALF OF THEM'LL BE DEAD! AND HE'S THANKING ME . . .


BY THE TIME THE CORAL REEF BATTALION HAD FORMED UP AND MOVED OFF, CAPTAIN TEX McGLUSKY HAD RECOVERED FROM HIS HEAD WOUND . . .
TEX! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?


LET GO OF ME, JOE! I'VE JUST HEARD MY BOYS ARE TRAPPED OVER THERE! I'VE GOTTA GET TO THEM!
YOU'LL STAY RIGHT HERE! THOSE ISLANDERS YOU SHOT YOUR FOOL MOUTH OFF AT ARE GOING TO GET YOUR BOYS OUT!

JOE'S EYES WERE AS HARD AS GUN-METAL . .
THIS IS THE IN NOW! ANY GLORY THAT'S COMIN' IS THEIR'S ALONE THAT'S WHY YOU AND ME ARE KEEPIN' OUT OF IT!
BUT, JOE, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT!

IT WAS SHEER SLAUGHTER WHEN WE DID THE CROSSING, JOE! BUT IT'LL BE FAR, FAR WORSE THIS TIME!
I KNOW IT, AND THEY KNOW IT! AND WE BOTH KNOW WHO'S TO BLAME, DON'T WE?


IT WAS A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE THAN BEFORE, NOW COLONEL SCHEER HAD THE TARGET HE WAS WAITING FOR . . .
IT'S THE JAPANESE-TRAITORS!
OPEN FIRE WITH THE EIGHTY-EIGHTS!

THE RIVER BED WAS AFLAME WITH BURSTING SHELLS, THE AIR A CURTAIN OF HISSING LEAD, BUT NOT ONE ISLANDER TURNED BACK . . .

AAAAHGH!

AAHHHH!

AND, IMPOSSIBLE THOUGH IT SEEMED, SOME REACHED THE OTHER BANK . . .

SPLIT UP! SOME THIS WAY! OTHERS GET TO THAT HILL!

FROM THE FAR BANK, THE GENERAL SAW THE CORAL REEF BATTALION
CUT TO RIBBONS
SOME OF THEM ARE FIGHTING THEIR WAY UP THE HILL! BUT THE PRICE THEY'RE PAYING . . .
SIR! THE REINFORCEMENT BATTALION! IT'S HERE!

GET OVER THERE AND HELP CONSOLIDATE THE ATTACK!
YES, SIR!
COME ON, TEX! NOW WE CAN DO SOMETHING!

AS THEY RAN ACROSS THE DRIED UP RIVER BED THEY COULD SEE BY THE LIGHT OF BATTLE THE ISLANDERS' ADVANCE UP THE HILL . . .
THEY'RE HALFWAY!
THEY'LL GET THERE, WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM!

THE HILL BECAME A HELL ON EARTH FOR THOSE MEN FROM MAUI, NIHAU, OAHU, AND THE OTHER HAWAIIAN ISLANDS – BUT NONE TURNED BACK . . .

CURSING, COLONEL SCHEER SAW THE REINFORCEMENTS OVER-RUN HIS DEFENCES . . .
AAAAARGH!
GET TO THE HILL! REMEMBER OUR FUEHRER'S ORDER!

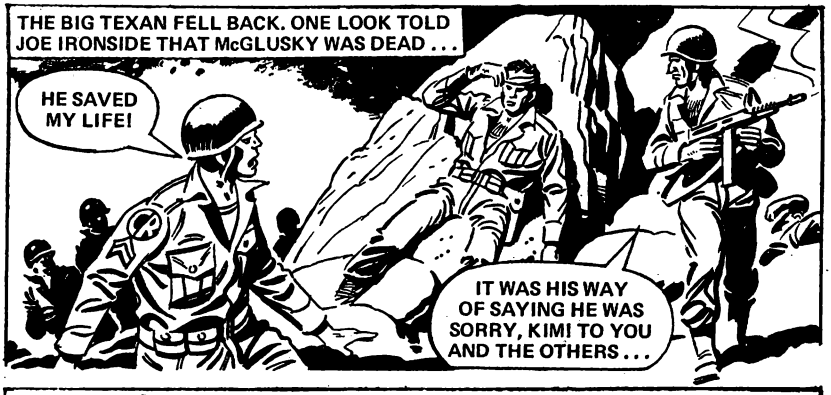
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. THE HILL HAD BEEN TAKEN AND SCHEER'S MEN RAN INTO A HAIL OF GERMAN BULLETS . . .
AAAAAAARGH!
THE TRAITORS HAVE DEFEATED US.

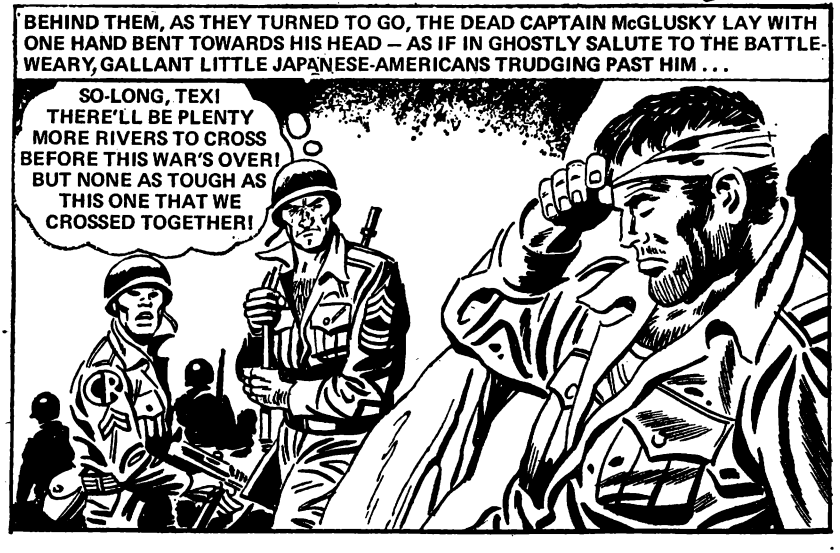
IT WAS KIM SOONG WHO BROUGHT DOWN COLONEL SCHEER HIMSELF . . .
CURSE YOU! AAAHHH!

THEN WITH THE SUDDENNESS THAT IS COMMON TO BATTLE, IT WAS OVER . . .
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GUYS DID IT, BUT YOU'RE A MIGHTY WELCOME SIGHT.

THERE WAS NO ANGER AND HATRED NOW ONLY THE COMMON RESPECT OF ONE SOLDIER FOR ANOTHER . . .
YOU BOYS ARE THE GUTSIEST SCRAPPERS I EVER SET EYES ON!

SEARCHING THE TIRED BATTLE-GRIMED FACES JOE IRONSIDE FOUND THE ONE HE WAS LOOKING FOR . . .
WELL, YOU MADE IT, KIM.
WE DID IT, JOE! WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD!





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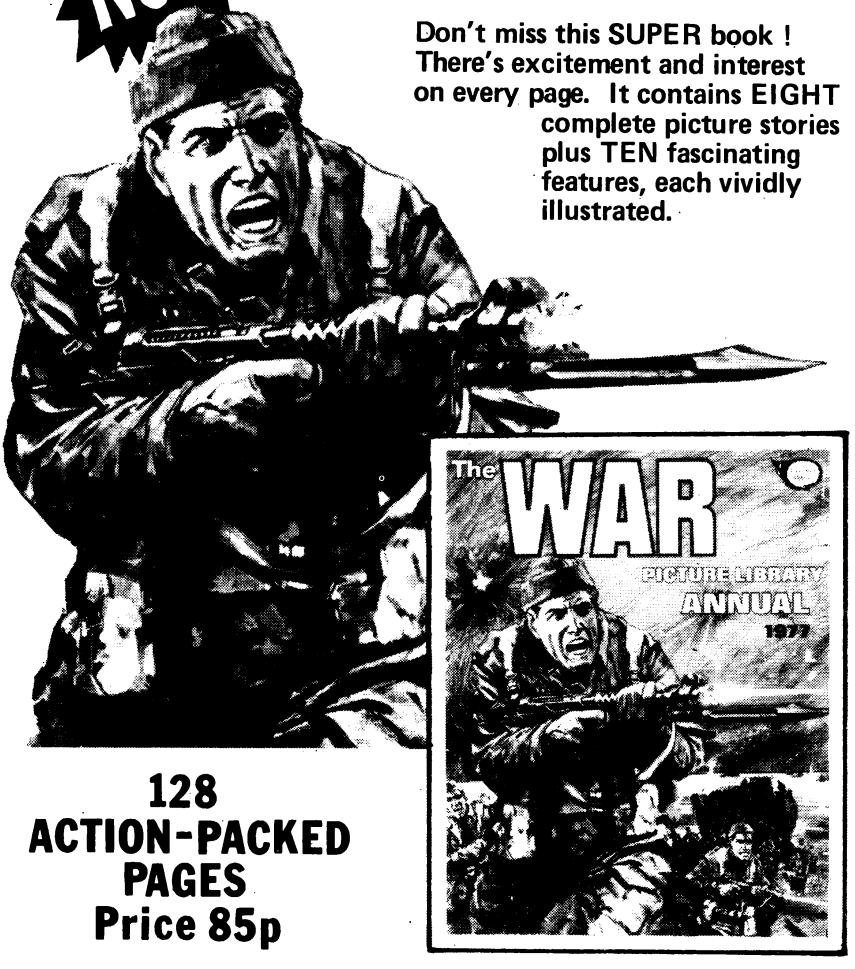

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